the status of drinking water in rural habitations covering all aspects on drinking water supply including quality of drinking water. The number of villages suffering from brackish water, excess fluoride, excess iron, etc. will be known in Rajasthan and other States after the final results of the survey become available.

(b) The constant use of drinking water with excess fluoride leads to dental and skeletal fluorosis.

(c) Safe drinking water supply is provided through supply from alternative safe sources or by setting up of defluoridation and desalination plants.

Tax deduction for sponsored research

2243. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Scientific and industrial Research has been designated as the nodal agency to administer tax deduction for sponsored research by industry in National Laboratories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons for such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPTT. OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPTT. OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Finance Bill 1993 introduced a weighted tax deduction of 125% for approved sponsored research programmes in approved national laboratories under Section 35 (2 AA) of IT Act.

The Director-General (Income Tax Exemptions) in concurrence with Secretary, Department of Scientific and Indstrial Research is the prescribed authority for approval of sponsored research programes in the national laboratories for the benefit of Weighted Tax Deduction.

Agreement between India and Uzbekistan for promotion of science and technology

2244. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Uzbekistan have agreed to set up an Indo-Uzbek technology centre in Tashkent for promoting cooperation in Science and Technology; and

(b) if so, the details of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPTT. OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPTT. OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A joint proposal of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Uzbek Academy of Sciences, signed in January 1992 in New Delhi, for setting up an Indo-Uzbek Centre for the promotion of S & T Cooperation in Tashkent by using the available infrastructral facilities of Uzbek institutions and establishments, was duly endorsed by the Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Commission during its meeting held in New Delhi on July 29, 1993.

(b) In setting up of this Centre use will be made of the available infrastructural facilities of Uzbek institutions and establishmets. This Centre shall be a nucleus to promote interaction between the scientists of the two countries and shall work towards the utilisation of S & T capabilities for joint endeavours between the two countries. In the first instance the Centre shall create a data base on the Indian and Uzbek scientists, scientific and technical institutions and such other strengths that already exist.

Appointment of Former Scientific Advisor to Ministry of Defence as Principal Investigator of a project

2245. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended the name of Former Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Defence, to be Principal Investigator of a project to explore comercialisation of technology emanating from National Research Laboratories at the Carnegie University, Pittsburg;

(b) if so, what was the criteria for selection;

(c) what are the terms and conditions of this new appointment;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the UNDP organised a seminar at Bangalore to discuss this issue in February 1992, if so, who were the participants in the seminar;

(e) whether any other scientist has since recruited to assist this project abroad, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what steps are being taken by Government to see that men associated with sensitive areas are not allowed to take up foreign assignment on the eve of retirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPTT. OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPTT. OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Comparative study of the experiences in commercialisation of research based technologies is one part of the UNDP approved project on Improving Technology Transfer through Strengthened Interaction between the Research Community, Interface Agencies and Public and Private Enterprises'. The project team includes a Main Project Scientist, who is a very distinguished scientist possessing knowledge of technology situation in India, located at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg. The project duration is for thirty months. The High Level Review Committee of the UNDP project welcomed the choice of the former Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri to be the Main Project Scientist.

(d) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) High Technology Review Workshop was held in Bangalore on 13th and 14th February, 92. The issues broadly discussed were :

> Technology development under new economic policies of India, technology development niche for India in global economy, the best methods for technology development and role of UNDP in technology development in India. The Workshop was attended by about twenty participants including emminent scientists, technologists economists, and UNDP and Government officials.

(e) The project work at Carnegie Mellon University is served by a few personnel on the basis of short-term and long-term requirements. During 1992, six experts in the areas of materials and technology transfer issues contributed to the project. In addition, a few more Indian scientists associate themselves with the project through brief visits.

(f) There are existing Government guidelines to regulate assignment of personnel associated with sensitive areas.

U.S. dicision to stop funding science and technology project

2246. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN :
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. Government have decided to stop funding science and technology project in India that would lead to commercially marketable process and products;

(b) whether this decision is due to the lack of progress on talks for changing the Indian patent laws to ensure protection of intellectual property rights;

(c) if so, the number of projects likely to be suffered due to the U.S. decision; and

(d) what is the number of total projects being funded by U.S. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPTT. OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPTT. OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) Since October 5, 1989, the U.S. Government have been reviewing all new or expanded cooperative bilateral Science and Technology projects in the light of their position on Intellectual property rights. The U.S. Government's position stems from bilateral differences on the issue of patent protection. The issue of Intellectual property protection is under discussion in the context of the negotiations on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Trade in Counterfeit Goods (TRIPS) at the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under GATT.

2. Over 75 Indo-US collaborative projects are currently under implementation. Collaborative Projects approved before October 5, 1989 have not been affected. However, project proposals submitted after this date which the US Government have assessed to have Intellectual property implications have not been cleared.

Export of indigenous technology by Indian Space Programme

2247. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Programme